

Clackamas County Mount Talbert Nature Park

Mount Talbert is an extinct volcanic butte, similar to other Boring Lava domes in the Portland area such as Mount Tabor or Rocky Butte. With a series of loop trails, you can explore the varied landscapes of the metro region's newest protected natural area.

Note: dogs and bikes are not permitted.

The walk begins at the trailhead to the Mount Talbert Nature Park, at 10695 SE Mather Road, south of Sunnyside Road. Here, access 4.0 miles of loop trails that travel through Douglas fir forest, along streams and through oak woodlands and upland prairies. Some firs are being girdled, a practice that kills them so that the slower growing native Oregon white oaks can thrive. Interpretive signs provide information about the plants and animals that can be seen – and heard – at the nature park.

Non-human residents and visitors to Mount Talbert include deer, coyote, raccoon, Western gray squirrel, rubber boa, pileated and hairy woodpecker, white-breasted nuthatch, Western tanager and many more. Birds and birders like Mount Talbert's "edges," its many transition areas between forests and open meadows, old farmsteads and apple orchards. Bring binoculars and watch out for poison oak along the trail.

Near the 750-foot summit, views of downtown Portland, the metro area and Cascade Mountain peaks can be seen through the tree canopy.

4.0 miles • 8448 steps • difficulty • 45.420, -122.553

CLACKAMAS COUNTY: MOUNT TALBERT NATURE PARK

New Park Links Neighbors to Nature

Surrounded by neighborhoods, Mount Talbert is one of the last large undeveloped natural areas in the metro region. The butte was protected by Metro and the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District with funds from a voter approved bond measure. The park, opened officially in 2007, offers hiking trails and information about its cultural and natural resources. Parts of the site are being restored as upland prairie and oak savannah, an ecosystem that once covered 500,000 acres in the Willamette Valley. Today only 1 percent of the valley's indigenous oak savannah habitat remains. Much of it has been converted to agricultural use.

Many park trails were built over the years by volunteers – neighbors living at the base of the butte. The nature park includes the summit of the butte as well as west-facing slopes visible to the tens of thousands who travel I-205 every day.



White oak



